

ITF DG ADVOCATES STATE OF EMERGENCY ON SKILLS ACQUISITION IN NIGERIA

For the youths of Nigeria to take political power, there is need for an urgent overhaul of the skills sector to enable them acquire the capacity needed for governance, the Director-General/Chief Executive of the Industrial Training Fund, Sir Joseph Ari has said.

The DG made this call in a goodwill message at the General Assembly of the Plateau State Youth Council (PYC), in Jos, the Plateau State capital.

Sir Ari stated that with 70% of the population being youths, the Nigerian economy should be blossoming like those of countries like Brazil, Singapore and the western world.

He, therefore, urged the youths to take on hands-on jobs to curtail the level of poverty in Nigeria, as government jobs are not sufficient enough to go round and even build the economy of Nigeria.

The DG added that it was with a view to equipping the youth with skills for industrialisation and economic growth that the ITF has been training 300 Nigerian youths per state with life changing skills every 3 months.

He commended the Plateau state government for sponsoring an additional 200 Plateau youths under the Fund's intervention programmes and for purchasing the start-up packs for them.

Sir Ari, who noted that this was a step in the right direction, urged other state governments to emulate the Plateau state government by sponsoring additional trainees for ITF skills acquisition programmes.

Also speaking at the event, the Director-General Plateau State Medium and Small Enterprise Agency, Mr Haggai Gutap (PLASMEDA), commended the

activities of the ITF noting that through the Fund, PLASMEDA had empowered 125 youths under the auspices of the PYC.

He admonished the youths to take advantage of the collaboration between the Plateau state government, the Industrial Training Fund and PLASMEDA, who are tirelessly seeking ways to equip the youths with life skills that can transform their lives and the society at large.

In a paper delivered by the Director-General of the Plateau State Peace Building Agency, Mr Joseph Lengmang, he charged the youths to be ambassadors of peace rather than tools to cause anarchy in the society.

He also advised the youths to find meaningful and respectful ways of engaging governments at all levels to create an atmosphere of peace.

In a welcome address, the Chairman of the Youth Council, Dr Fabong Jemchang Yildam, thanked all dignitaries and organisations that had contributed to the success of the youth council since he became chairman in 2017.

He appealed to the Governor, Simon B. Lalong on behalf of the youths contesting elections in 2019, that a civic space be provided for youths in the state to engage in issues of governance.